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02-235

May 29, 2003

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Dear Senator:

I am very much opposed to the proposed merger of the Hispanic Broadcasting Corporation (HBC) the top Spanish-language radio operator owned by Clear Channel Communications (one of largest radio broadcast owners), and Univisión Communications Inc. (Univisión), the top Spanish-television operator. I believe this merger would be devastating to the millions of Hispanics who rely predominately on Spanish language media for their news and entertainment.

If the merger is approved, the largest source of Spanish language media would be consolidated under the sole control of non-Latinos resulting in a defacto monopoly that will hinder the expression of diverse opinions held by Latinos across the country. Consumers are best served by a diverse and competitive media market particularly the over twelve million Hispanics who rely predominately on Spanish language media for their news and entertainment. By merging with HBC, Univision will further consolidate its monopoly on Spanish language media. This is too much power for one individual or group to have.

Furthermore, this merger would result in a significant decline in minority media ownership in the United States. Hispanics are now the largest and fastest growing minority. However, Latinos are grossly under represented when it comes to media ownership. Indeed, Hispanic ownership and management of U.S. media has virtually vanished in recent years. If this merger is approved, Latinos will in effect be barred from future ownership of media because appropriate broadcast facilities will no longer be available, and access to capital would be worsened. We should be promoting minority ownership of media, not undermining it as this merger would do.

Finally, neither the HBC nor Univision have presented evidence that this merger would serve any public interest or provide benefits to the Latino community.

For the reasons stated above, I urge you to oppose the merger of HBC and Univision.

Su Mas Atento Servidor,

Miguel P. García,
New Mexico State Representative, District 14

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